

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A storage system adapted to be coupled to a host, the storage system comprising:

a plurality of storage devices, some of the storage devices having different performance characteristics than others of the storage devices;

a controller coupled to the plurality of storage devices for selecting at least one storage device from the plurality of storage devices based on predetermined conditions for placing data blocks comprising a file therein;

an evaluator for, when a data storage request is made, evaluating whether the request matches the predetermined conditions and providing a result of that evaluation[[: and]],

wherein when the result of the evaluation matches the predetermined conditions, a process is executed for placing the data blocks in the selected storage device according to the predetermined conditions,

wherein the process executed for placing the data blocks places data blocks in accordance with the predetermined conditions, and the predetermined conditions define information for a data block to be placed in the file and information for a storage device that should place the data block,

wherein the information for a data block to be placed in the file includes at least one of: the number of bytes counted from a leading end of the file, a percentage from the leading end of the file, the number of bytes counted from a tail end of the file, a percentage from the tail end of the file, or whether it is an added part for the file.

11. (Previously presented) A system as in claim 10 wherein the storage devices comprise physical storage devices.

12. (Previously presented) The storage system of claim 10 wherein a management device is coupled to the storage system for relocating data blocks in the storage devices based on the predetermined conditions.

13. (Previously presented) The storage system of claim 10 further comprising:
a storage to store management information for converting logical addresses accessed by the host into information for specifying the plurality of storage devices, physical addresses for the selected storage device, and preset conditions, and

wherein when an access request to each data block is made from the host by the logical address, the preset conditions are applied to the access request, and when the result of the evaluation matches the conditions, the management information about the logical addresses and physical addresses for the storage devices is used to thereby place data blocks in the selected storage device.

14. (Previously presented) The storage system of claim 10 wherein:
when an access request to a data block is made from the host using the logical address, the preset conditions are applied to the access request to thereby evaluate the application thereof; and

when the total number of data blocks placed in a storage device selected from the result of evaluation exceeds a specified portion of capacity of that storage device, at least one of the following two events occurs (1) the data blocks are stored in another storage device or (2) the data blocks already assigned to the storage device selected are shifted to another storage device so the data blocks are stored in a free location.

15. (Previously presented) The storage system as claimed in claim 10 wherein:
when an access request to a data block is made from the host using the logical
address, the preset conditions are applied to the access request to thereby evaluate the application
thereof, and

when the total number of data blocks placed in a storage device selected from the
result of the evaluation exceeds a preset threshold of the storage device, the storage system
performs at least one of the following two events: (1) provides information about exceeding
capacity of the storage device, and (2) provides information about the conditions that caused the
selection of the storage device.

16. (Currently amended) The storage system of claim 15 wherein the preset
threshold is full capacity.

17. (Previously presented) The storage system as in claim 10 further including a
system for setting the predetermined conditions.

18. (Previously presented) The storage system of claim 10 wherein the
predetermined conditions include at least one of: information for an access executor for a file;
information for a file owner; the file size; the file copying time; the last file update time; the last
file access time; information for an application capable of executing the file; and an access rate
for the file.

19 and 20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The storage system of claim 10 wherein:
the evaluator evaluates whether or not the file requested for storage by the host
matches a file having a high access frequency or a file requiring a wide storage area; and
when the file requested for storage by the host device matches to a file having a
high access frequency or a file requiring a wide storage area, the processing module stores a

predetermined data block among a plurality of data blocks included in the file in a storage device having a fast access speed of the plurality of storage devices.

22 and 23. (Canceled)